

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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FOI/PA# 1350086-0

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Office Memorandum •

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. L. V. BOARDMAN *HPW*

DATE: January 24, 1955

FROM : MR. A. H. BELMONT *ABH*ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISESUBJECT: et al
STUDY OF THE INFLUENCE OF
COMMUNISM, SPONSORED BY
THE FUND FOR THE REPUBLICClassified by *2075*
Declassify on: *0*
1-24-80 Outside the Scope

Tolson	_____
Boardman	_____
Nichols	_____
Belmont	_____
Harbo	_____
Mohr	_____
Parsons	_____
Rosen	_____
Tamm	_____
Sizoo	_____
Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holloman	_____
Gandy	_____

The "Washington Post and Times-Herald," January 14, 1955, contained an article stating that the Fund for the Republic had announced that it had allocated \$250,000 for "a factual study of the influence of Communism, past and present, on all aspects of American life." Cornell University, was announced as heading a group of scholars who would make the study. The study supposedly will cover Communist influence in such fields as government, education, religion, labor, the social structure, opinion-making groups, mass media, the arts, literature and sciences. The group also plans a history of the Communist Party.

According to the article, associates in the study are: Daniel Aaron, Professor of English, Smith College;

The Bureau has not investigated and our files contain no pertinent identifiable information concerning

Our files reflect the following information concerning the remainder of the group:

Daniel Aaron:

INDEXED
RECORDED

b6
b7C
b7D
Outside the Scope

Aaron has never been investigated by the Bureau.

Attachments (4)

BAW:saw (6)

1 - Mr. Boardman

1 - Mr. Belmont

* Opened 9/20/48; closed 5/18/51.

EXEMPTED FROM AUTOMATIC
DECLASSIFICATION

AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:

FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
EXEMPTION CODE 25X(1)

DATE 02-08-2000

~~Mr. Wells~~
~~1 - Sect. Tick. File~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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Outside the Scope

In 1938, one Daniel Aaron, a faculty member at Harvard University, was reported to have suggested that a petition be circulated requesting the extension of a teaching contract for a teacher alleged to be a Communist Party member.

A summary memorandum concerning Aaron is attached.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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Outside the Scope

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For your information.

1/26/55 - Recommend condensed memorandum to Attorney General and Rogers.

LVB

memo to AG and
Rogers 1/28/55.
BW

Yes.
H.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

January 19, 1955

MEMORANDUM

Re: DANIEL AARON

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Outside the Scope

Daniel Aaron has not been the subject of an investigation by this Bureau. However, our files contain the following information concerning him.

Aaron's

[REDACTED]

Daniel Aaron, were particularly close or that [REDACTED] had any influence over Daniel. [REDACTED]

In January, 1954, during the Security of Government Employees investigation concerning one [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] who was an associate of [REDACTED] while they were students at Harvard University, class of 1939, was interviewed and gave a signed statement. In that signed statement [REDACTED] stated that during the academic year 1938 - 1939, faculty members leading classes in American History and Literature included Daniel Aaron [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Outside the Scope

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-24-89 BY 208 B-1 J/ag

ENCLOSURE

encl #1

While lack of identifying data makes it impossible to positively state that the above-mentioned Daniel Aaron is identical with the Daniel Aaron now a faculty member at Smith College, it is believed that these individuals are identical.

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AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
EXEMPTION CODE 25X(1)
DATE 02-06-2009

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

DIRECTOR, FBI

100-391697-65

[redacted] et al
STUDY OF THE INFLUENCE OF
COMMUNISM, SPONSORED BY
THE FUND FOR THE REPUBLIC

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

JANUARY 28, 1955

SEE REVERSE
SIDE FOR
DECLASSIFICATION
ACTION

Classified by 203273/08
Declassify on: OADR 9-15-99

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Third Party

The "Washington Post and Times-Herald," of January 14, 1955, contained an article stating that the Fund for the Republic had announced that it had allocated \$250,000 for a factual study of the influence of Communism, past and present, on all aspects of American life."

[redacted] Cornell University, was announced as heading a group of scholars who would make the study. The study supposedly will cover Communist influences in such fields as government, education, religion, labor, the social structure, opinion-making groups, mass media, the arts, literature and sciences. The group also plans the preparation of a history of the Communist Party.

According to the article, [redacted] associates in the study will be: Daniel Aaron, Professor of English, Smith College;

For your information, there is set out below a brief summary of information in our files concerning the above individuals:

The Bureau has not investigated and our files contain no pertinent identifiable information concerning [redacted]

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
 Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

DAW:pat
(9)

100-391697-65
JAN 31 1955
COMM-FBI

memo Belmont to Boardman
1/27/55 (BAW/PAT)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

100-391697-65
JAN 31 1955
COMM-FBI

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Outside the Scope

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(C)
(C)
(C)

[Redacted]

S-1(2)

DANIEL AARON:

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Outside the Scope

Aaron has never been investigated by this Bureau.

[Redacted]

In 1938, one Daniel Aaron, a faculty member at Harvard University, was reported to have suggested that a petition be circulated requesting the extension of a teaching contract for a teacher alleged to be a Communist Party member.

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Outside the Scope

[Redacted]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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Outside the Scope

2 cc Mr. William P. Rogers
Deputy Attorney General

The Fund for the Republic, Inc.
1 East 54th Street
New York 22, N. Y.
Plaza 1-3170

FOR RELEASE A.M. PAPERS
JANUARY 14, 1955

[redacted] of the Fund for the Republic,^{b6}
today announced the allocation of \$250,000 by the Fund for a ^{b7C}
factual study of the influence of Communism, past and present, on
all aspects of American life. The study will be conducted by a
group of scholars under the direction of [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

The Board of Directors of the Fund authorized the study as
the largest of several projects undertaken by the Fund to obtain a
clear and comprehensive picture of the effects of Communism on
America and its citizens. It is hoped that the study will contri-
bute significantly to a proper understanding of the role of the
Communist movement in the United States.

The study will cover Communist influence in such fields as
government, education, religion, labor, the social structure,
opinion-making groups, the mass media, the arts, literature and
science. A history of the Party is also planned.

A number of established authorities have already joined
[redacted] Others are to come into the study later. Some
of the specialized tasks they will undertake will require two to
three years to complete. The present plan is to publish the find-
ings in each field as separate volumes, together with one or more
summary volumes.

Authorities who are already taking part in this study,

besides

[redacted]

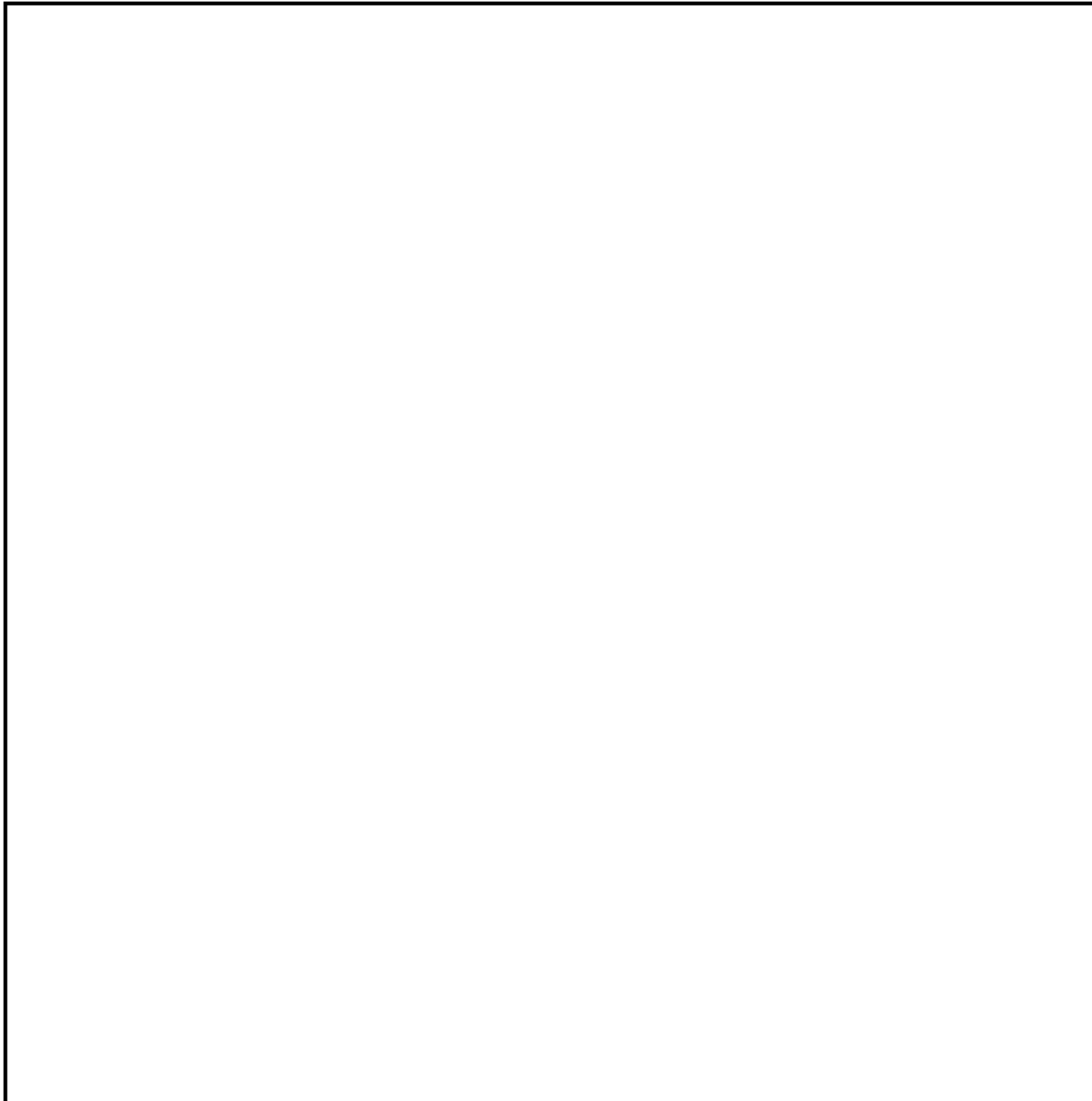
include:

[redacted]

[redacted]

Daniel Aaron, professor of

English and director of the American Studies program at Smith College;



Another major project of The Fund for the Republic dealing with Communism in the U. S. is the public-opinion survey directed by [redacted] of the Laboratory of Social Relations at Harvard University, of the attitudes of Americans toward

Communism, conformity and civil liberties. The results of this survey will be published in book form by Doubleday and Company.

In addition, the Fund recently completed a project under the of the Harvard Law School which included the collection on microfilm of the records and briefs of 23 important trials involving the issue of Communism; a bibliography of the existing literature dealing with Communism; and a digest of U.S. laws, court decisions, and State statutes, relating to the control of Communism. The Fund presented copies of the microfilm collection to the Library of Congress and eight other large libraries in different parts of the country. As a public service the Fund will also distribute the bibliography and digest as important research tools to more than 1,000 U. S. libraries and specialists.

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The Fund for the Republic is an independent corporation established to promote the principles set forth in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

The Fund for the Republic
1 East 54 Street
New York 22, N. Y.

BACKGROUND MEMORANDUM:

THE STUDY OF COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN THE U.S.

A. How the Study Came About

One of the first statements made by the Directors of the Fund for the Republic after it was organized in early 1953 indicated their conviction that a main factor affecting civil liberties in this country today is the existence of the Communist and beliefs about his influence in this country. The Directors declared that they proposed "to undertake research into the extent and nature" of domestic Communism in the hope of arriving "at a realistic understanding of effective procedures for dealing with it."

Since that statement in February 1953 the Fund has undertaken several related projects which it expects will increase America's knowledge and understanding of American Communism. These are described below. The Study of Communist Influence announced today is the most ambitious sponsored by the Fund.

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Outside the Scope

B. Projects Concerning Communism Undertaken by the Fund

1. A collection on microfilm of the records and briefs of 23 important trials involving Communists and Communism. This project has been completed by a committee [redacted]

[redacted] of the Harvard Law School. Other members of [redacted]

[redacted] committee were [redacted]

[redacted] Sets of the microfilm collection have been presented to the Library of Congress and eight other large libraries in different parts of the country (the University of California Library at Berkeley, the University of Chicago library, the Harvard University Library, the New York Public Library, the Cornell University Library, the Mirabeau B. Lamar Library of the University of Texas at Austin, the University of Washington Library at Seattle and the Florida State University at Tallahassee.

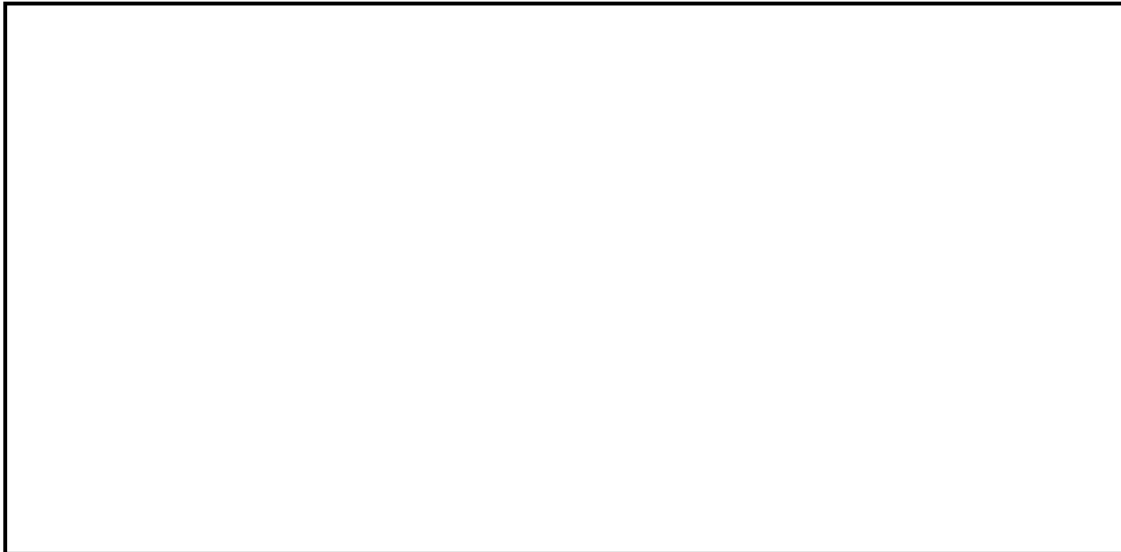
2. Bibliography on the Communist Problem in the United States. This is a topical listing of books, pamphlets, magazine articles and public documents assembled for the first time in one place. It includes listings of accounts of Communist activity among special groups, such as youth, and labor, institutions such as government, schools and colleges, the church and the arts. An index by authors is included. This bibliography was done under the direction of

[redacted] It is shortly to be distributed to approximately 1000 libraries and specialists as a public service by the Fund.

3. A Digest of the Public Record of Communism in the United States. This is a guide to the U.S. laws concerning Communism and to the development of Communism and efforts to deal with it as disclosed by the public records. This material includes Federal statutes, regulations and decisions, State statutes and decisions, and documents issued by Federal and State governments. An appendix covers legislation of the 83rd Congress up to August 1954. This digest, which was also prepared under the direction of [redacted] and his Committee, is being distributed with the Bibliography.

4. A public-opinion survey of American attitudes toward communism, conformity and civil liberties. The results of the survey and an analysis and interpretation of them are now being put into book form by [redacted] of the Laboratory of Social Relations at Harvard University, who directed this project. The book will be published by Doubleday and Co. (A copy of the January 5 press release dealing with this survey is available.)

C. Participants in the Study of Communist Influence



Daniel Aaron (Subject: Communism and American Literature) is professor of English and director of the American studies program at Smith College. He is the author of "Men of Good Hope" and several other books.

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Outside the Scope



D. The Fund for the Republic

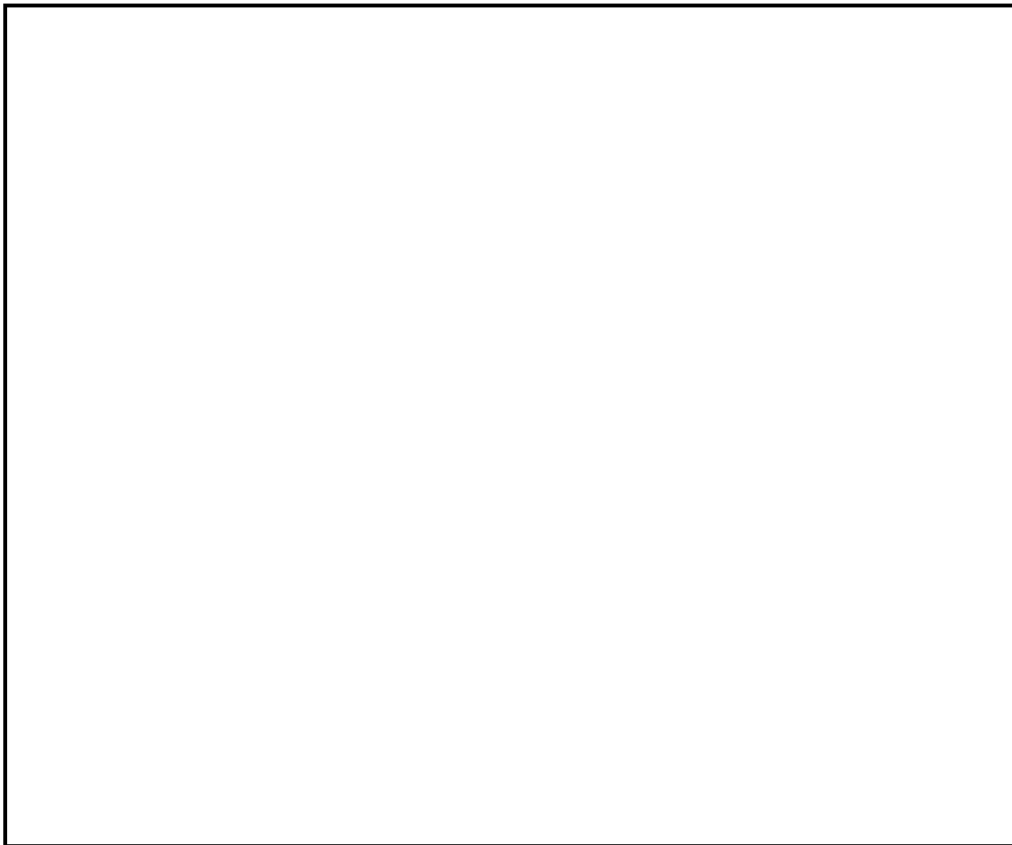
The Fund for the Republic was established as an independent corporation by the Ford Foundation, with an appropriation of \$15,000,000 "to support activities directed toward the elimination of restrictions of thought, inquiry and expression in the United States, and the development of policies and procedures best adapted to protect these rights."

The Fund, which began operations in early 1953, has no connection with the Ford Foundation today.

The Fund regards its sphere of operation as comprising all questions of civil liberties and racial and religious discrimination in the United States. It takes as its basic charter the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

Among the Fund's current and immediate concerns are the problems involved in restrictions and assaults upon academic freedom, the principles of due process and equal protection under the laws, the protection of the rights of minorities, the activities of private groups in censorship, boycotting and blacklisting and the principle of guilt by association and its application in the United States today.





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Outside the Scope

The headquarters of the Fund are at 1 East 54 Street, New York
22: Plaza 1-3170